

Sam Coleman, Acting Regional Administrator for EPA Region 6 [Hurricane Harvey]

○ **DRINKING WATER**

1. Mr. Coleman, your written testimony indicates that Region 6 worked with Texas and local officials to assess more than 2,200 drinking water systems. What is the status of drinking water systems in Region 6?
 - a. Are there people still without access to potable drinking water?
 - b. What about right after the storm – how did the drinking water systems of Region 6 fare during the hurricane?
 - c. Are there improvements to the drinking water systems that need to be made that would help in the face of future storms?

○ **SUPERFUND SITES**

2. Mr. Coleman, has EPA evaluated all of the superfund sites in Region 6? *[If not, when do you anticipate that will be completed? If so, what were the results of the evaluations?]*
 - a. Other than the San Jacinto Waste Pits, do any other superfund sites require follow up?
3. Mr. Coleman, we have heard a lot about the San Jacinto Waste Pits superfund site in your region with the most troubling being reports of the cap being damaged and dioxin levels as high as 70,000 parts per billion when the cleanup level is only 30 parts per billion. What can you tell us about the status of the elevated levels of dioxin?
 - a. I believe that EPA was requiring the potentially responsible parties to do additional sampling in the area around the site to determine the extent of the problem from the damage to the cap – what was the result of that sampling?

b. I know that EPA signed the Record of Decision (ROD) in mid-October and I believe that the remedy selected was removal of the contamination – is that correct?

i. Are the potentially responsible parties on board with the ROD and with conducting any immediate repairs necessary on the cap?

○ **SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS / HAZARDOUS WASTE**

4. Mr. Colman, in the aftermath of the record flooding in Houston, debris removal is obviously a significant issue. Can you fill us in on the status of the debris removal?

a. Has Region 6 had to deal with orphan containers like drums, tanks, canisters, cylinders and similar containers displaced by the hurricane found floating in or washed up near waterways because of the flooding?

○ **Clean Air Act Issues**

5. Mr. Coleman, your written testimony describes the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology – the ASPECT aircraft. It sounds like the ASPECT aircraft could ascertain whether there was any danger from the Arkema plant which had an explosion in the aftermath of the flooding and was able to assess and damage to and environmental issues with miles of pipelines, 134 Risk Management Plan facilities, 456 drinking water plants, and 105 wastewater plants. Is the ASPECT aircraft owned by EPA? It sounds like very useful technology – is it something available to other EPA Regions?

6. Mr. Coleman, did Region 6 conduct air quality assessments in the impacted areas?

a. If so, when and how many?

b. What have the results of those assessments been, generally?

7. Mr. Coleman, your written testimony mentions that EPA deployed the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer which is a mobile air pollution detection vehicle that can provide air quality results quickly by collecting constant, real-time data for outdoor air quality. Is EPA concerned about whether the samples taken by the mobile air pollution detection vehicle are accurate and/or exemplary of air quality conditions throughout the regions?